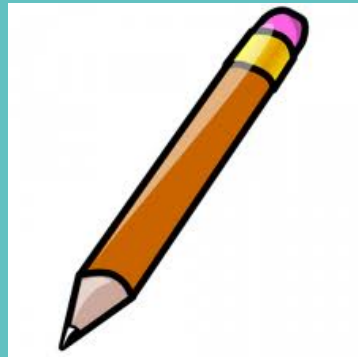
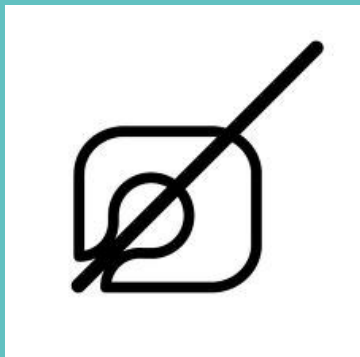


# Expository Writing

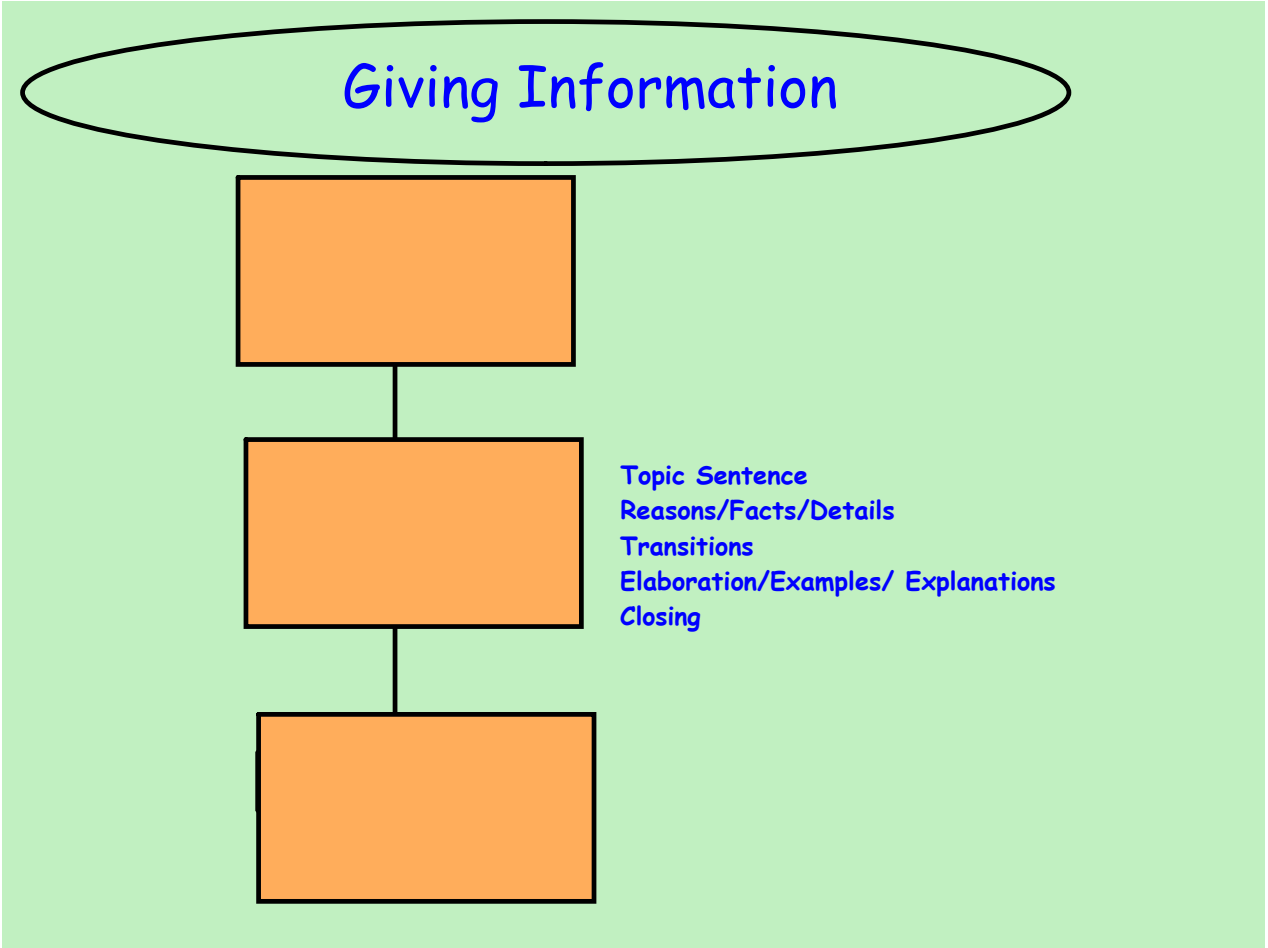
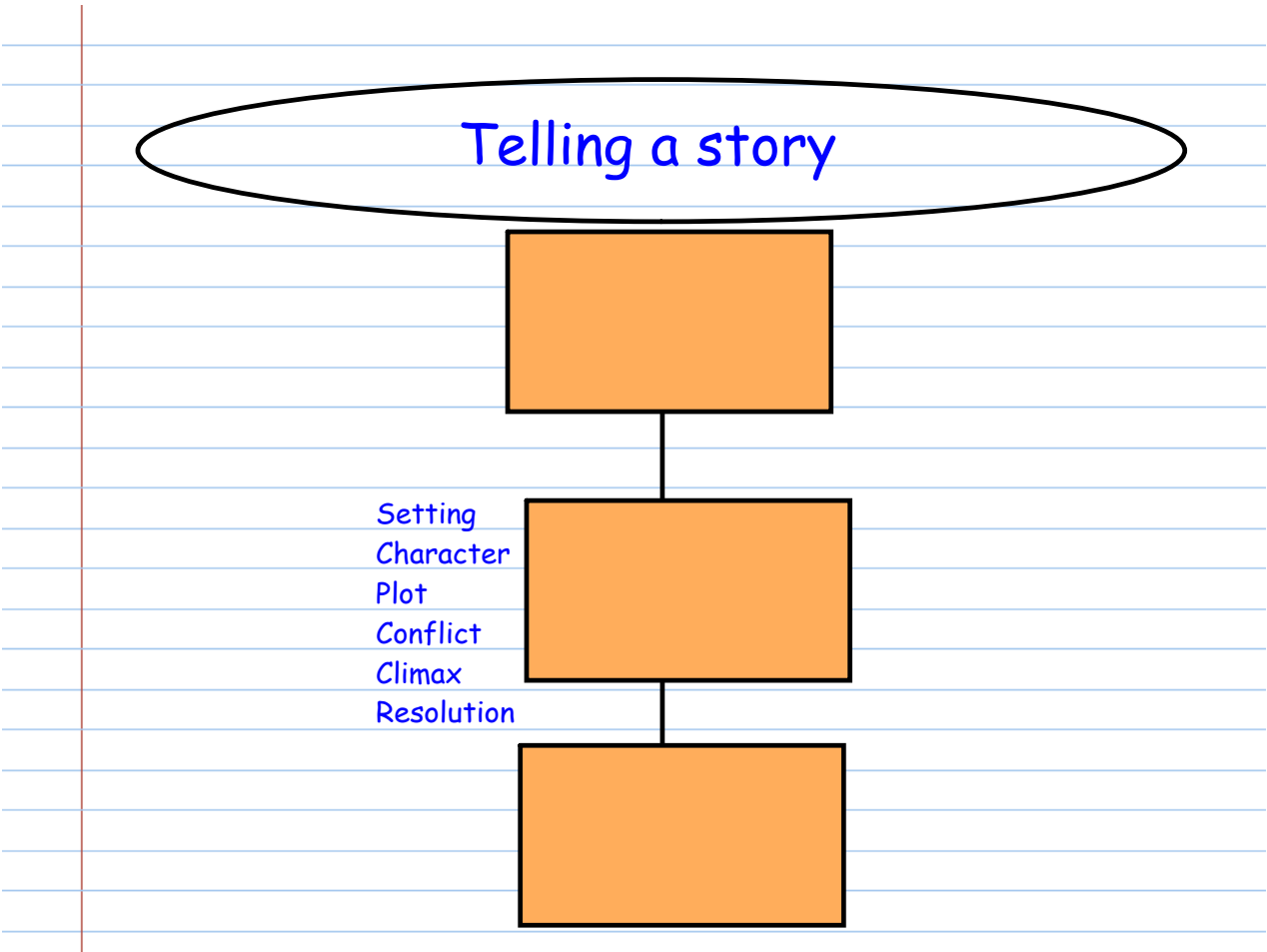
( Getting ready...)



## Types of Writing

There are two main types of writing, what are they?

- narrative writing (telling a story)
- expository writing (giving information)



from *A Shocker on Shock Street*

by R. L. Stine

Marty and I jumped to our feet.

"Ohhhh." I heard Marty let out a frightened moan.

I started to back away. I thought maybe I could scramble out the other side of the car.

But the snarling, growling monsters came at us from both sides.

"L-leave us alone!" I stammered.

A monster covered in tangled brown fur opened his jaws to reveal long, jagged rows of yellow teeth. His hot breath exploded in my face.

### Spanish Explorers

After Christopher Columbus's voyages to the New World, many Spaniards came to this continent to explore. One Spanish explorer was Ponce de Leon. He traveled through present-day Florida to find the Fountain of Youth. A second explorer Coronado, searched for the Seven Cities of Gold. He and his men traveled for three years. They did not find the cities of gold, but they did find the villages of the Pueblo who lived in the Southwest. They also saw the Grand Canyon. A third explorer was Hernando De Soto. De Soto traveled through Florida and then traveled west as far as the Mississippi River. He and his men were the first people from Spain to explore the Mississippi. These three men were only a few of the many people who explored the New World.

Let's explore expository writing a little further.



# Expository Writing

**FOCUS QUESTION:**  
What is expository writing?



Expository writing explains or gives information about a topic.

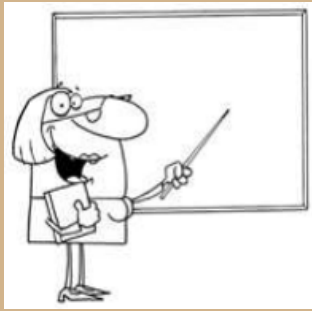
- "Expository" means "to explain."



- Expository writing explains ideas so that people can understand them.



## Examples of expository writing:



- reports



- essays



- newspaper and magazine articles



- instructions and "how-to" essays



Rick Riordan

An expository essay is also called an explanatory essay. Both explain or inform.

- The essay can explain "how."

Example - an essay explaining how you learned to play the drums



3 Year Old Drummer.avi

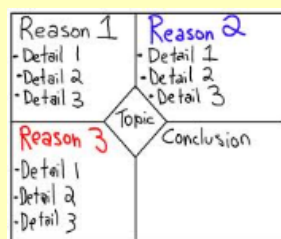
- The essay can explain "why."

Example - an essay explaining why dogs make the best pets



To write an expository essay, follow these steps:

- Decide if your essay is going to tell "how" or "why."
- Choose a topic.
- Brainstorm ideas to write about using a graphic organizer.



Choose from one of the topics listed below:

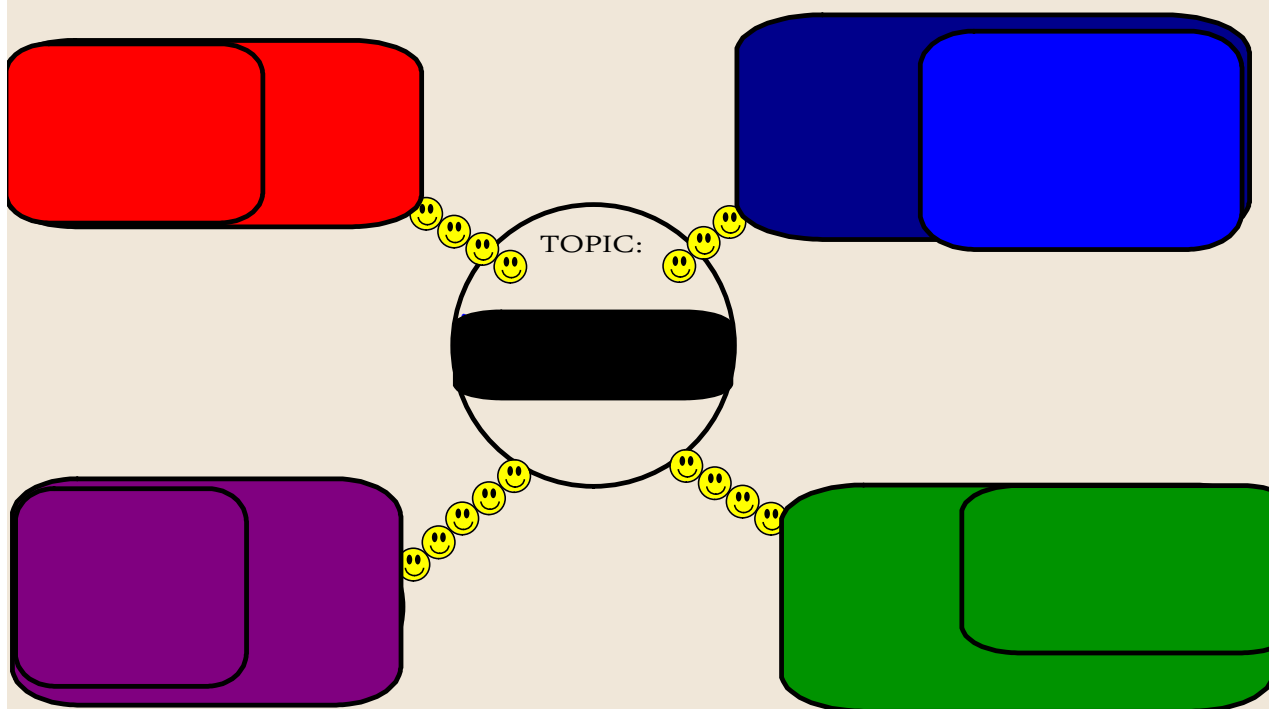
- The Importance of Education ☆☆☆
- Family/Why is Family Important
- The Importance of A Good Mind ☆☆☆
- The World's Best Invention
- Money - Good or Evil

"Organization is what you do before  
you do something, so when you do it,  
it's not all mixed up."

A.A. Milne

a.k.a Winnie the Pooh

Organize...organize...organize



Now it's time for you to get started.



Your essay must have a minimum of five paragraphs.

(You can also have more but no less.)

Introduction	<u>Hook</u>
	<u>Thesis Statement</u>
	<u>Transition to paragraph #1</u>
Body paragraph #1	<u>Transition word + Main Idea</u>
	<u>Supporting details</u>
	<u>Transition to paragraph #2</u>
Body paragraph #2	<u>Transition word + Main Idea</u>
	<u>Supporting details</u>
	<u>Transition to paragraph #3</u>
Body paragraph #3	<u>Transition word + Main Idea</u>
	<u>Supporting details</u>
	<u>Transition to paragraph #4</u>
Body paragraph #4	<u>Transition word + Main Idea</u>
	<u>Supporting details</u>
	<u>Transition to Conclusion</u>
Conclusion	<u>Transition</u>
	<u>Restate thesis (in different words)</u>
	<u>Leave the reader with</u>
	<u>something to think about.</u>

## Introductory Paragraph (the introduction)



"Hook" - a surprising statistic

Many people would be surprised to learn that there are over 78.2 million owned dogs in the United States, and 39% of U.S. households own at least one dog. Even ancient cultures such as Egypt, India, Greece, and Rome people treated dogs as the family pet. There are a variety of reasons for this unique relationship including the adaptability, trainability, loyalty, and playfulness of these canine friends. One important characteristic of dogs is that they can adapt to many different circumstances and environments.

Thesis statement

Transition sentence  
to Body P #1

Where do we go from here?



**Focus question:**

You can think of an essay hook as you would a fishing hook: it's something that grabs a reader and reels him in. The hook for your essay could be any interesting sentence(s) that captures attention and keeps the reader reading. The hook for your essay often appears in the very first sentence(s).

(Taken from About.com)









**Not a hook:** I am going to write about dogs.



My essay is about dogs.

I am going to tell you about dogs.

**What to use for a hook:**

-  "No Matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich." - *Louis Sabin*
-  - Woof, woof. Arf, arf. These sounds let me know my favorite friend is near.
-  Thorns may hurt you, men desert you, sunlight turn to fog; but you're never friendless ever, if you have a dog.  
Douglas Mallock
-  *How Much is that Doggie in the Window? Arf, Arf* 
-  There are approximately 78.2 million owned dogs in the United States. 39% of U.S. households own at least one dog.

**The Thesis Statement (and how to write it)**

- The thesis statement explains the main idea and main points of your essay to the reader.

When writing your thesis statement, avoid:

- using first person (I believe, my opinion, etc.)
- unclear language (It seems, etc.)
- picking two topics (even if they appear related)

## Sample Thesis Statements

- Dogs make the best companions **because they are adaptable, trainable, loyal, and playful.**
- **There are a variety of reasons why dogs are considered by many to be man's best friend. Dogs are adaptable, trainable, loyal, and playful.**
- **The dog has been a friend to people for hundreds of years. There are many reasons why dogs hold a special place in people's hearts including their adaptability, trainability, loyalty, and playfulness.**

Now it's your turn to write some practice thesis statements for your topic. 😊



To begin, for the past 14,000 years dogs have adapted to living with humans. Most pet dogs have learned to live in the same environment as their owners. Owners who later have children find that their pet adapts to the new family members. Dogs can even adapt to new pets entering the family as well. If the breed of dog is taken into account, dogs can also live in a wide variety of climates and environments. Larger, heavier dogs with thick coats live happily in colder regions, while smaller dogs with lighter coats do well in southern climates. Whatever the circumstances, dogs love their owners unconditionally and will do everything they can to please them. This is one of the reasons why dogs are highly trainable.

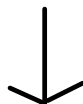
Main Idea

One Sentence

Supporting details

At least 3

Transition sentence to next paragraph



Main Idea

I like softball because it is good for my body. For example, catching and throwing make my arms strong. Every day at practice, we throw with a partner back and forth to warm up. After this, we throw to certain positions. This helps build the muscles in my arms and protect my bones from breaking. Second, running, jumping, and batting help keep my endurance high. My coaches make us run the bases after every practice. They time us, and if we don't make it within a certain time we have to run again! This helps me run faster and last longer in games. Lastly, softball keeps me mentally happy. Playing a sport I love keeps me organized with my schoolwork and allows me release any stress I have. A happy mind and body keep me grounded. Softball keeps my body and mind in balance and really allows me to learn teamwork.

Specific  
Details

At least 3

Transition Sentence

## Conclusion paragraph (start with a transition)

To summarize, statistics show that a significant percentage of homes own at least one dog. These furry companions have qualities that have endeared them to people for thousands of years. Dogs are adaptable, trainable, loyal, and playful.

